

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 /055 W

----- 017145

R 310858Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15675

NOFORN

FOLLOWING FROM SONGKHLA ACTION BANGKOK JULY 30

REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QUOTE

S E C R E T/NOFORN SONGKHLA 125

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TC, TH, XF

SUBJ: LOCAL PROBLEMS WITH ARAB MONEY FOR THAI UNIVERSITY

1. DESPITE RECENT STORIES IN BANGKOK ENGLISH PRESS, NO SAUDI OR EGYPTIAN MONEY TURNING UP DOWN HERE FOR THAI MUSLIM EDUCATION. ONLY SOLID OFFER SO FAR IS \$20 MILLION OFFERED BY UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) FOR ARABIC AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE TO BE HELD AT PATTANI CAMPUS OF PRINCE OF SONGKHLA UNIVERSITY (PSU).

2. PSU CAME UP WITH PROGRAM FOR PATTANI CAMPUS AND WILL PRESENT IT TO RTG FOR EVENTUAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ABU DHABI, ACCORDING TO SOURCES HERE. HOWEVER, WHEN PSU PROGRAM WAS SHOWN TO COUNCIL OF IMAMS IN SOUTH THAILAND, IMAMS ATTACKED PROPOSAL AND SUBMITTED NEW PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN. IMAMS' DEMAND WAS FOR TOTALLY NEW UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE OF RTG SYSTEM, WITH NO

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INSTRUCTION IN THAI. DEMAND INCLUDED CALL FOR MORE MONEY

FOR RELIGIOUS VERNACULAR SCHOOLS, ALONG WITH CARS AND EXPENSE
MONEY PROVIDED FOR IMAMS AS SUPERVISORS OF NEW PROGRAM. PSU
AUTHORITIES FINALLY AGREED SUBMIT BOTH PROPOSALS TO BANGKOK AFTER
LONG ARGUMENT WHICH HAD BOTH SIDES ACCUSING EACH OTHER OF
PROFITEERING MOTIVES FOR PROPOSED AID MONEY.

COMMENT: DOUBT IF RTG WILL EVER LET ANY AID MONEY IN OTHER THAN
THROUGH ITS OWN EDUCATIONAL CHANNELS. PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED
BY FACT THAT ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF THAI MUSLIMS CAN HANDLE
THAI LANGUAGE AT A UNIVERSITY LEVEL, AND AN EQUALLY SMALL NUMBER
LACK EVEN HIGH SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS IN MALAY LANGUAGE. IMAMS'
FEARS OF LOSING CONTROL OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY FURTHER COMPLICATES
ISSUE. CASTRODALE

U QUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), EDUCATION GRANTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO15675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750264-0699
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975071/aaaaaapp.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL PROBLEMS WITH ARAB MONEY FOR THAI UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TC, TH, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006